

SPRAGUE ELECTRIC

Log

BY SPRAGUE EMPLOYEES *and* FOR SPRAGUE EMPLOYEES

Volume X

SPRAGUE ELECTRIC LOG, MARCH 27, 1948

Number 16

1947 Annual Report of Sprague Electric Company

It's Your Service!

Yes, the Metropolitan Visiting Nurse Service is YOUR service, if you are insured through the Metropolitan Group Insurance Plan which is made available to Sprague employees.

This is an extra privilege made available here in North Adams through your group insurance protection. . . . This is an effective way to help you in safeguarding your health — and to cut the time you might lose from work because of illness or accident.

The Metropolitan Visiting Nurse Service is a friendly service given right in your own home. This Visiting Nurse will give skilled bedside care under orders of an attending physician, and will teach members of your family to take care of you between visits. She is qualified through long and careful training to render valuable assistance. If you need her services, call her or have your doctor, or family do so.

How to Call the Nurse:

Telephone the local Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's Office — North Adams, 980.



At work in the Industrial Oil Assembly, we find Ernie Faustini, Vivian Shaw, Ruth Harding, William Kaczowski and in front Elinor King.

Letters From Our Sponsored School in Rhenen, Holland

(We are pleased to receive letters from the school in Rhenen, Holland, which Sprague employees sponsored for a year. These people have been more than appreciative of the gifts sent them.)

March, 1948

At first, I thank you very much, Mrs. for the gifts you have sent us. It is so nice that people of another continent think about us. For seven months we received the clothes and the pupils were very surprised. I have a coat, a beautiful coat and I wear it often.

Spring Concert Rehearsals

The Berkshire Community Orchestra is now in the midst of its Spring rehearsal season in preparation for its Spring Concert which is to be given at Chapin Hall in Williamstown on May 10th. The program has been planned to fit the taste of every music lover. The opening number will be a light operatic Overture by Rossini, then two movements of the most popular Tschaikowsky Symphony No. 4, Selections for the Harp by Debussy, the very popular Danse Macabre by Saint-Saens and last but not least, the popular Emperor Waltz by Strauss.

Last week, we received the paper, pencils and soap. It was very fine.

I live in the village of Elst, four miles from Rhenen. I go by train to school. We have suffered much from the war. Our house was struck by grenades, and now, we got a new house . . . But we have all been saved! I have a father, and mother — but no brothers or sisters and I am 16 years old. The paper on which I write was also received from you. In July, I must go in for examinations and I hope that I shall be successful. Do forgive my mistakes, for I had to study very much and I don't have much time to read . . . Now, I finish my letter, and I thank you once more.

Betsy Kool

March 2, 1948

Dear American Friends:

Today, we have divided the soap and writing books to every child. Last week, we received your carton with chocolate and pencils which was also very welcome — especially the pencils. Thank you most heartily for all the good things you sent. And we understand that this was the last American gift from you.

We are hard working in Holland to repair what was broken — and everywhere is much work to do. Today, you can hardly tell that there was a war three years ago. Only the church and tower are not yet restored . . . but they both date from 1200. The school, also has gained, for the girls and boys had lost much in character during the war

(Continued on page 4)

Basic Operating Figures and President's Report Summarized

Copies of the 1947 Annual Report are being mailed this week to the company's 1030 stockholders. This report shows that the company's sales and net earnings, after deducting all costs of doing business during the year 1947, were both moderately less than the corresponding figures for the year 1946. An analysis of 1947 operations shows that the total amount paid out to employees during the year amounted to almost 50% of total sales to customers. This percentage of our sales dollar, paid to our employees, is considerably higher than the average for all industry. The report, which covers our twenty-first year in business, includes the following analysis of income received and money spent during the year ended December 31, 1947.

Basic Figures from the 1947 Annual Report

\$10,517,394	Sales made to customers
120,721	Plus other income
\$10,638,115	Total sales and income
4,161,506	Minus total paid for raw materials, power, fuel and other purchased items used
\$ 6,476,609	Remainder available for the balance of our business needs and used as follows:
\$ 4,926,109	Wages and salaries paid to employees
645,685	City, State and Federal taxes paid
213,544	For wear and tear on plant and equipment
32,500	Paid for interest on borrowed money
377,220	Dividends paid to our 1030 stockholders
281,551	Retained for plant expansion and other needs of the business

In his letter Mr. Robert C. Sprague, President, stated:

Our business in 1947, our twenty-first year of operations, was at a good level, and we made progress in research, product development, and plant improvement. We began the year with operations at full peacetime capacity, but in the second quarter it became apparent that the principal capacitor manufacturers had done a better job of providing components for their customers than had manufacturers of other parts, particularly those using large quantities of steel, copper, or wood. Consequently, large inventories of capacitors accumulated in the warehouses of our customers, and the second quarter witnessed substantial cut-backs in orders and a lowered volume of business, which continued through most of the third quarter. In August and September it became evident that these inventories had been used up, and a higher rate of production resulted. Business continued to improve through the fourth quarter.

Secondary Reconversion

In 1946 the Sprague Electric Company had finished its primary reconversion to peacetime operations. This consisted of setting up to manufacture capacitors made of the same materials and using the same processes as units made prior to the war. In 1947 the company made a substantial

beginning on what we call our secondary postwar reconversion. This reconversion consisted of setting up to make new products, particularly items developed by the company's research department, to meet the more stringent requirements of the electric and electronic postwar world, both for commercial and military uses. Some of these new products will be added to the continued normal output of capacitors for the many uses now well established as essential parts of our economy.

Plastic Molded Tubular Capacitors

For a number of years our Research Department has been developing a new paper dielectric capacitor with improved performance characteristics and appearance. Up until this time small paper dielectric capacitors for use in radios and other electrical and electronic devices have been inserted in cardboard tubes, the ends of which were sealed by wax. In July, 1947, we introduced to the trade the new Sprague plastic molded capacitor, the most important advance in the paper capacitor field in many years. The performance of these molded capacitors far exceeds that of standard paper tubular capacitors and they have met with enthusiastic response from manufacturers.

(Continued on page 4)

LAST OF THE SNOW SCENES



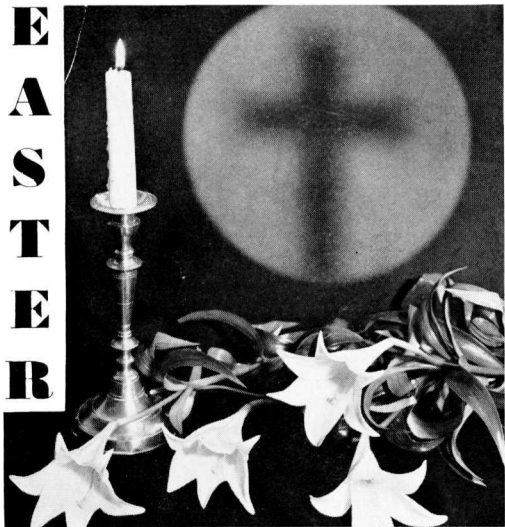
Janis Mae Scerbo proudly displays the snow man she "sculpted." Janis is the granddaughter of Viola Savage of the F. P. Drys.

Younger Generation Take to the Air

It is no longer news when some Sprague employee is heard over the air from one of our local stations. That happens quite frequently. But now, the younger generation, not to be outdone by their elders, are also making air debuts. Such is the case of Cynthia Jane Crosier, 11 year old daughter of Fred Crosier of the Engineering Specification Department,

and Donald Filiault, 11 year old son of "Mac" Filiault of Sample Laboratory, Marshall Plant.

Cynthia and Donald have been on the air Saturday mornings over WMNB — and expect to continue for several future Saturdays. Cynthia plays the piano, and Donald sings . . . and from the standpoint of this listener, both do a remarkably fine job.



"Rabboni!"

An Easter Message from B. Frank Mountford — Formation Department

"Rabboni!" So did Mary of Magdala greet the Risen Lord on the first Easter Morn. And the greeting was sufficient, for that one word contained her creed and His biography.

The full story may be read in the twentieth chapter of St. John's Gospel. She greatly loved and adored her Lord, for from Him had come pardon; by Him she had been set in the way of righteousness and of advancing purity. For such a debtor to grace, to suddenly find *alive* One Whom she thought dead — what else could she do but joyfully ejaculate "Rabboni! My own dear Master"

And for us of the Sprague family — what shall Easter 1948 mean to us? We seek Him, and find Him, in two places, in two ways; two — yet really one. In the Service of the Altar, in Holy Mass, in Holy Communion; there we meet Him and He is made known to us in the Breaking of Bread. And the other place we find Him is in Holy Writ. It is the lovers of the Redeemer, finding Him in Sacrament and in Scripture, who carry on life and in life the significant title, Rabboni.

Our reverence for so great a Saviour, surely makes each a guardian of *all* His Holy Names — so shall home and office and factory become holy ground. "Jesus said, Mary . . . and she said RABBONI which is to say, MASTER."

Sprague Electric To Fly Army-Navy "E" Flag Second Annual Observance



The U. S. War Department has designated April 6th as Army-Navy "E" Day, to commemorate the efforts of American industry for the part played in winning World War II. Those industries which were awarded an Army-Navy "E" pennant will display that pennant again on April 6.

In accordance, Sprague Electric Company will proudly display the "E" pennant awarded them for their excellence of performance in meeting production goals and standards during those war years. The Army-Navy "E" was awarded to the Company and its employees not once but five consecutive times, during that period when materials were difficult to procure — and when men and women worked unstintingly to produce goods so badly needed by our Armed Forces.

LOG PUBLISHING STAFF

EDITOR: Evelyn Fairchild

CIRCULATION : Marion Caron SOCIAL CHAIRMAN: Mary Mathews

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Kit Carson, Tom Cullen, Dan Kelly, Pete Mancuso, Jim Oldham, Etta Owen, and Laurence Haskins.

SPORTS

Kenneth Russell
PHOTOGRAPHER
Albert Horsfall

PLANT EDITOR

Marshall Street: Cecile Trudeau

PLANT EDITOR

Brown Street: Bertha Salavantis

BEAVER STREET REPORTERS

Betty Bogus, Joan Bryce, Doris Delisle, Esther Driscoll, Hazel Goodale, Gertrude Hall, Ruth Haskins, Marjorie Hauptfleisch, Harry Embry, Betty Alderman, Emma Massaconi, Rose Righi, James Shea, George Scarbo, Vi Short, Florence Southgate, Shirley Thoros, Constance Urbano, Roseann Vigna and John Walsh.

MARSHALL STREET REPORTERS

"Toots" Callahan, Phyllis Chartrand, Josephine Convery, Mary Daniels, Eddie O'Neil, Mario Magnani and Roma Rumgay.

BROWN STREET REPORTERS

Rose Corsi, Gladys Kirkpatrick, Ann Heath, Betty Jangrow, Della Keating, Mary Markland, Josephine Martinoli, Rita Mulqueen, Rita Samia, Rita Siciliano, Corena Tatro, Isabel Witherow, Carol Bellard, Josephine Campedelli and Vickie Lamore.

"Every Sprague Worker an Assistant Reporter."

Published by the SPRAGUE ELECTRIC CO., North Adams, Mass.

BROWN STREET BRIEFS

Resistors--Night Shift

By Vickie LaMore

We welcome all the new girls . . . and we're glad to see Mildred Borstel back to work.

The two daughters of Ann St. Cyr will enter St. Luke's Hospital, Pittsfield training school for nurses.

The girls in our Department enjoyed hearing their voices on records.

Aldea Caron invited the girls in our room to spend Sunday afternoon at her home, where they saw a brush demonstration.

We are glad to learn that Irene LaBeau's son, Francis, is home from the Springfield hospital.

Helen Boucher is on a diet . . . Could it be she wants to get that "new look"? . . . Say, like Evelyn King in her new outfit.

PAA. Wrap. and Dip Solder

By "Little Iodine"

Favorite songs of our co-workers are:
Marie DeMarsico—"Oh, Johnny"
Evelyn Sherman—"I'm a Little"

Petunia in an Onion Patch"

Mary Anna Trotter—"Beg Your Pardon"

Peggy Daub—"How Soon"

Rae Trimarchi—"Jealousy"

Peg Daub's baby sister made her

lunch recently, consisting of one slice of bread and rice crispies! Good thing you were not very hungry, Peg.

The Navy is full of surprises—and one was pulled on Marie DeMarsico when her boy friend came home on an unexpected 48 hour liberty.

What has the Pine Brook Club got to keep Mary Anne Trotter down there so often?



Paul, Marion and Irene, children of Lillian Forbush of the Molded Tubulars, second shift.

PAA. Rolling

By R. Siciliano

A surprise birthday party was held for Mary Messier one noon hour. Mary received several lovely gifts. Tessie Belleau acted as hostess.

Welcome to all the night shift girls. It seems like old times to have Vi Dupuis working in back of me.

Helen Scarfone was given a surprise shower at her home in honor of her approaching marriage on April 3rd to Walter Golka of Adams. Helen received lovely gifts for her home.

Spring is surely on its way. You can always tell by the women. The new short hair-do's are very much in evidence in our Department.

Julia Gattuso, Tessie Belleau, Mary Messier and yours truly have succumbed to the hairdresser's scissors.

We are happy to have Mary Matranga back with us after her recent operation.

Industrial Oil Stock

By Ann Heath

Pass the ammunition, folks. The feud is on. No, it's not the Martin's and the Coy's this time; it's the Bernie Stackpole and Hazel L'Ecuyer.

Up-do vs. Up-don't

Up-do vs. Up-don't: Ann Heath's hair style caused much comment. "Agg" Houghton says it takes ten years off Ann while Bernie Stackpole being an expert stylist in the new look and such, says she needs only a mop and a pail to complete the picture.

The limp being sported by Evelyn Morton is not due to one leg being shorter than the other. Oh, well! we'll let Eve tell us all about it herself.

St. Patrick's Day was observed by our real Irish, namely: Ann Heath, Bernie Fitzpatrick and Helen Unis.

Welcome back, Al Folino. We are all glad to see you.

Bill Sheldon did a beautiful job of singing on the air, Sunday.

Wire Coating

By Corena Tatro

In case you are interested in the bet between Larry Haskins and Paul Sanford, Larry is the winner. Old Man Winter certainly piled the snow up which means that Larry now finds himself looking a fine steak dinner in the eye. Congratulations, Larry.

Someone tells me Henry Puppulo got in a minor scrape with his car. Henry, watch the road.

Why does Harold Peters smile when we talk about housecleaning? Does he still remember his painting job last spring?

Someone once said, "What's in a name?" When we say "Red Cross", we find it isn't the name but what it stands for.

If I have a dollar and you have none What good is my dollar if I only have one?

Why shouldn't I share it and we'll both have fun . . .

Since I have been fortunate in having this one.

Molded Tubulars--2nd Shift

By Gladys Kirkpatrick

Sorry to see Anna St. Cyr and Esther Peters transferred to Resistors—we will miss you.

What would we do without the Three Musketeers, Rose Canro, Loretta Tovani and Olympia Catelotti. All for one and one for all.

What would happen if Ann Douglas smiled a little . . . Al Ziter stopped eating pickles . . . Rachel Montagna sang a little . . . Bertha Shepard found a chair that suited her . . . Wanda Scarpitto tried to use her telephone without getting a busy signal . . . Ruth Richmond had enough match covers to satisfy her . . . Mabel Williams didn't know how to sew . . . Tom Doyle had time to bet on a sure thing . . . Mary Scarbo didn't have time enough to do all the handwork she brings in . . . Gladys Kirkpatrick, Marie Dubreuil, Rose Lazarczyk and Rose Leveille all lost about forty pounds.

Maintenance

By Little Lulu

Attention, all music lovers! George "Nightingale" Coody, who has been taking singing lessons, is now available for parties and banquets. His fee — two bags of coal.

Bill Falcon, now known as the "Coca-Cola Kid", has taken the pledge and is now on that proverbial water-wagon.

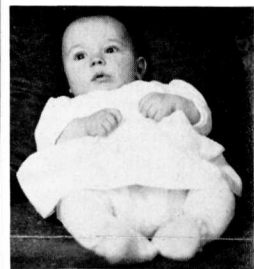
What would Paul Belanger and Carl Vaughn do without Dadds' Dispensary — their one and only cure all.

Ray Shields says that, since he gave up drinking for Lent, he has more aches and pains than ever before . . . You always had them, Ray.

When Fiorino Messina was paged recently, everyone in the department looked questioningly at the other until they saw "Rip" Messina go ripping down the aisle to answer the phone. Incidentally, "Rip" says he is all through with women because a certain girl from the Resistor Department stood him up.

John Rossi is going around with a red face these days because some of the boys overheard him proposing to his girl friend over the phone the other noon.

A speedy recovery to Joe Schneider who is out sick. Hurry back, Joe; the boys are practically lost without you.



James F. Rondeau, son of Jeanette and Wilfred Rondeau of Misc. Paper Finish.

Prokar Dept.

By Carol Bellard

"Day Dreams"

Gert Fields—to go to New York even if she has to go alone.

Marion Duprea—to get an introduction to Cary Grant.

Margaret Viall—to have that little bungalow.

Joan Haley—to find an "ideal" man.

"Terry" Pinsonneault—to see the Can Shop move to Brown Street.

Agnes Viall—to see that horse come in.

Ceil Viall—to wear her new outfit on Easter Sunday.

Eleanor Perron—to see the "Big Dipper".

Marceline Poirat—to see Roy Rogers in person.

Marion Daignault—to meet the owner of that Studebaker.

"Dolly" Poirat—to use those things in her cedar chest.

Doris Tyler—to wear her new gown, with an orchid, to the Easter Monday Ball.

Carol Bellard—to receive more phone calls.

Inez LaPier—to travel to Arizona.

"Dot" Whipple—to sit back and admire her home after the housecleaning is done.

Irene Shepard—to learn some new jokes.

"Jackie" Miller—to get her mind away from Clarksburg for a day.

(Now, if we didn't do all this day-dreaming, wouldn't Oliver Ledger be happy?)

We're all happy to see "Billie" Belanger back after her recent visit to Florida.

We wish a speedy recovery to Olympia Dominick's husband and hope to see her back soon.

BUSY BEAVER NEWS

Heads Town Outlay Board

Walter W. Clark, head of Production Engineering Department, has been named chairman of the Capital Outlay Committee for Williamstown. Heading this Committee, it will be his duty to study improvements necessary for the town as well as ways of financing such projects.

Misc. Paper Finish

By Gertrude Hall

Well, you've no doubt heard of a lot of strange things in Sprague's, but hold your seat for a big surprise. Maude Waska has opened up a confectionery counter and sells de-licious candy bars. So, if you have a hankering for something sweet, wander over; we know we have something to suit you.

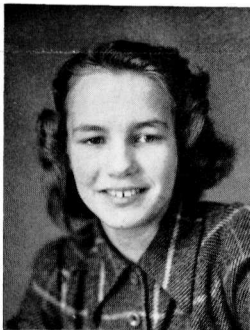
A very cordial welcome to Gene Marceau, Velma Lincoln and David Trombley. Hope you enjoy working with us and that you will stay a long time.

Your new glasses are very becoming, Florence Lincoln. Hope they help relieve those terrible headaches.

We ought to call the upper corner the "swap shop". There's a daily exchange of favorite recipes and samples of the goodies, to boot.

Correction: It's Clara Marceau's father, not husband, who underwent an operation, as was erroneously stated in the last issue.

OUR HOLLAND FRIEND



Alie von Dolderen of Rhenen, Holland is shown here. She corresponds with Barbara Sherman, the daughter of "Pinky" Sherman of the Can Shop.

(Barbara Sherman, daughter of Ralph of the Machine Shop, has been corresponding with a little Dutch girl of Rhenen, Holland. The following is the letter and picture of Alie van Dolderen, whose English is very good, we think.)

My dear Barbara:

I received your letter where you asked me if I wanted to correspond with you. I find it very nice. I can't write and speak English so very good, but my eldest sister is helping me. I am thirteen years old. I have fair hair and I am tall (1.67m). I am sitting in the second class of the grammar school. I am learning French, German and English.

I find it very fine to correspond with you — for that is very good for my language. I have one sister of twenty-one years and one brother of nineteen years, and of course, a father and mother. I am sending a photo of myself. I hope that you like it. I am called Alie van Dolderen, and I hope that you write soon back.

Many regards,
from Alie

No Television, No Baby Sitting

Chicago baby sitters are reported passing up all homes not equipped with a television set.

Payroll and Cost

By Betty Alderman

Welcomes are in store for Evelyn Therrien, Romelda Lanoue, Frances Sorrel and Donald Hosley. We do hope you'll like it here.

Farewells to Priscilla Northup and Jean Whitney. Both girls have been transferred and we do hope they'll like their respective departments.

A good luck to Bernadette Choquette who has accepted a position elsewhere.

Have you noticed the smile "Tommy" has been sporting lately? Could it be because the stork visited the Thompson residence and presented them with a bouncing baby girl? Congratulations, Dot and "Tommy".

Has anyone noticed the "new look" glasses parading about the office? There's more in store—a "Gibson Girl" hair-do and a new wardrobe. Oh, to be a millionaire like that girl in COST! !

HORRORS! ! ! A. Mc's. grey "ballot-box" is right in style this year. If those "Paris" designers only knew what they were doing! !

Paper Rolling

By Hubba

Lena Solomon spent the week end in Boston and Worcester.

Birthday greetings to Evelyn Tower. She was given a surprise birthday party by friends.

So long to "Frenchy" Laframboise. The girls presented him with a wallet and cigarettes. The gang misses you, "Frenchy".

Roseann Vigna entertained a few of the girls at her home. Lunch was served and a swell time was had by all. As usual, "Jo" Lestage and Claire Fitzpatrick were the 'lives' of the party with their antics.

"V" Scott spent the week end in Newburyport.

WATCH THE BIRDIE . . .



Beverly Ann Torrey appears to have a big problem on her hands. Her mother is Margaret Torrey of Marshall Street, Shipping Department.

A. C. Assembly

By Mary Williams -- Pinch Hitting

While this Log is at press, we will already have seen Doris and Lucille and their "new look." You won't need "thinies", girls.

If "Lou" doesn't find those lost tweezers pretty soon, it looks as though Jinnie will have to have another rest period of six weeks in Sunny California. How long will it be before those "thinies" take effect, girls? We are still waiting to see the change.

Is it true that Lucille Lachance's favorite number is ten?

Someone had better buy Johnny Fortini a derby. He is losing his hair so fast that he's got to hide it somehow or we'll never know who he is.

Centrifuge

By Harry Embry

Have you seen Norman Monette's new Buick (1932)?

Ernie Foote made fifteen dollars shoveling out Adams after our last snow storm.

Everyone in this Department seems to have caught a cold.

F. P. Assembly

By Emma Massacconi

Welcome back, Evelyn Jones, Irene Burke and George Donovan.

And welcome to Doris Canedy, Beatrice Perras, Leonard Scarfone, Richard Maynard and Eva Benson.

Familiar sight—Evelyn Jones and her totem pole.

Viola Savage entertained her grandchild, Janice, over the week end. Viola is getting to be an expert at making snowmen.

Ann Blasi took part in the New England Girl's Basketball Tournament and did a swell job.

Catherine Coody held a supper in honor of her son-in-law, Leslie Dustin's birthday. A good time was had by all.

Can Shop

By Harry Trombley

Bill Fortini and the girl friend:

Girl Friend: "I think I will stay home tonight."

Bill: "I think I will stay home with you."

(after a short stay at home)

Bill: "I think I will go bowling."

Girl Friend: "I think I will, too."

... That's what I call love.

Bill Kilbride and Ann Blasi seem very friendly. She never misses that little chat at her rest period.

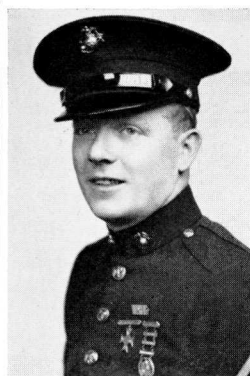
I hope Jim Dolan gets that house of his fixed up.

"Pinky" Sherman says that sports item about his bowling is going on the bulletin board.

Howard Isherwood is nursing a dollie on one of his fingers—Cliff Dominichini, too.

Bill Hussey is thinking of making his home in Adams, Ernest Charbonneau says.

IN BOISE, IDAHO



Staff Sgt. H. J. Fowler has been in service 7 years, and is at present recruiting officer at Boise, Idaho. He is the son of Ida of Misc. Paper Assembly.

There are three things we don't mind a man bragging about — his wife, his children and his home town.

Experience is what you get while looking for something else.

Co-ed: "I'm knitting something that will make John happy."

Second Co-ed: "A sweater for him?"

Co-ed: "No, one for me."

Misc. Paper Assembly

By Ruth Haskins

We are glad to see Lillian Gainer back at her work after an illness of several weeks.

We noticed Lucy Libardi crocheting recently — a sight we never expected to see. Working on a hope chest, Lucy?

"Fran" Roy says she likes ice cream. So Stacia Wisnowski gave her some the other day — right in the face!

"Millie" Embry has been confined to her home with an injured ankle.



Shipping

By Gold Dust Twins

Claire Mancine celebrated her birthday, March 18th. She was presented a birthday cake and a gift by her co-workers.

What would happen if: Ernest Gregory ever sang a song right to the end. It seems Ernie thinks that the Beaver Street plant is wonderful. Now, Ernie, just what is the attraction at the Beaver Street plant?

Why is Pat Davis so nice to Claire Mancine every Tuesday? Is it because he wants the navy shipments to go out that day?

Gerald Cronin has an inspiration (pin - up girl). Now he is all smiles while working.

OUR SAFETY CORNER



Maintenance -- Marshall

By Umbriago

Best wishes for a speedy recovery are extended to Joe Schneider from all the Gang. Hope you will soon be back with us, Joe.

Word has been received from Brown Street that Little Lulu has started a taxi service from Brown Street to a certain spot on River Street. If you would like to know why Little Lulu was late for work one noon, we think she can explain better than we can.

Fishing season is near at hand and the usual topic these warm days is where the big ones were last year, and how we would like to be on certain brooks. . . . Let's have another fishing contest.

We hear George Forgea is about to open a swimming pool in his cellar! !

Paper Rolling Boasts Three Sister Team

Three sisters working in one Department is our latest team of distinction at Sprague's. The girls are Yvette, Jeannine and Therese Contois of the Paper Rolling Department, Beaver Plant. Their father, Osias, is also employed at the Beaver in the Misc. Paper Finishing Department.

The Contois family arrived in North Adams from Lachine (near Montreal), Canada, a few months ago. When the family decided to move to the States, Osias spent two months in Massachusetts deciding where he would locate—the toss-up being between North Adams and Holyoke. He finally decided on North Adams because it was a smaller, cleaner and more friendly place. This was the second time Osias had been in the States—the first dates back to 1925 when he visited in Troy, Michigan, and there met and married his wife. The couple then returned to Lachine.

When asked how they like their new home and surroundings, the Contois family are very enthusiastic in their

praise. Yvette said, "Oh, we like the States — everyone is friendly, especially here at Sprague's. The girls are so nice and ready to help when things go wrong."

Jeannine thinks our winters are wonderful. "We have more snow in Canada", she tells us, "but it's really colder there — although the humidity here makes it seem colder here."

All the Contois speak English fluently, though they spoke French in Canada. Therese says they had some English in school, "but we've picked up a lot, too." They find our way of attaching several meanings to one word a little confusing, "but people are good about translating for us," she added.

It is easy to understand why their co-workers like the Contois family. Their friendly smiles and ready good humor inspire friendly responses. . . . And though we can't say it in French, we do say in English, "We're glad you've come, and Good Luck to all of you in your new home!"



These three Contois sisters, Jeannine, Yvette and Therese are all employed in Paper Rolling. Their father, Osias, is in Miscellaneous Paper Finish.

1947 Annual Report - Sprague Electric

(Continued from page 1)

Miniature Molded Tubular Capacitors

In addition to the molded tubulars mentioned above, which are reasonably competitive in price with standard paper tubulars, our Research Department also developed an extremely small tubular capacitor of advanced design, which will have many uses in military and commercial equipment. These units have a diameter as small as three-sixteenths of an inch and a plastic molded exterior which gives them the highest humidity resistance yet attained in units of this general type. Tooling for the manufacture of these capacitors, which did not begin until late in September, was completed just before the close of the year. Substantial orders have been received for use in government and commercial equipment, and shipments are already an important part of our total sales.

Small Batteries

Another major program undertaken in 1947 was the purchase of equipment and the setting up of facilities for the manufacture of small mercuric oxide batteries under a license from Samuel Ruben, the inventor, through the P. R. Mallory Company, which is currently producing a similar unit. These batteries will find extensive use in hearing aids and in other electric and electronic devices where size is an important factor. At the present time operations are about to begin in a small way, but production is expected to increase during the year.

Television

There are many new electronic devices reaching the market which are substantial users of capacitors, but of these television sets offer by far the greatest promise for the electronic industry and our own business. Since many new television transmitting stations have been placed in operation, the areas opened to this new and exciting means of communication are increasing. Television sets require many times more capacitors than ordinary radio sets. Furthermore the requirements of these sets are more severe and, generally speaking, a higher quality unit is required, even in the moderately priced sets. It is anticipated that television will play an increasingly important part in our business and future development.

Current Business and Outlook

The largest single factor affecting the company's business is the rate of manufacture of radio sets by its customers. During 1947 approximately 19,000,000 radio sets were produced in this country. This production was kept at a fairly steady rate during the year, although the company's business was curtailed during the second and third quarters because of an oversupply

of capacitors in the hands of manufacturers.

Approximately half of the company's business is in fields other than radio. In these, for the most part, the demand for capacitors continues to be good. One of the most important of these is motor start AC electrolytic capacitors, which are used in large volume by the manufacturers of refrigerators, washing machines, and many other appliances with electric motors. This business followed somewhat the same pattern as that in the radio field during 1947, with high production in the early part of the year, a slack-off during the summer months for similar reasons, and increased production in the fall. Current demand continues strong.

Another important field is in ballast capacitors for fluorescent lighting, where we introduced last year a new impregnated superior in a number of ways to the impregnants used by other manufacturers. Our business in this field has been increasing during the past year and shows promise for the future.

Research and Development

The company has continued to pursue its policy of extensive research and development. It leads its field in this respect, and intends to continue doing so. Expenditures of substantial amounts were made during the year to improve present products and to develop additional new products for the future. Renovation of a large building at our Marshall Street plant to house all of our research and engineering activities in one central building was completed. Here, we believe, are the largest, most complete, and extensive research and engineering facilities in the industry.

Personnel

There are presently some 2,200 people working in the company's plants. Throughout the year we continued to enjoy satisfactory relations with the two independent local unions who represent our factory and office employees respectively, and had no lost time from production and no serious differences.

General

In 1947, as in 1946, we spent substantial sums on plant improvements for our primary and secondary reconversions and for new products. Although plans for the coming year do not involve as extensive a program, our aggressive research and merchandising policy implies that substantial expenditures for improvements can be expected in any normal business year. This policy, matched with continued good labor relations, should assure the company a strong position in its field in more competitive times.

The loyal cooperation of the company's entire personnel during the year 1947 is sincerely appreciated. We ended the year in first-class physical and financial condition. With the continued effective cooperation of our employees, we hope to continue to lead in our expanding field.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. Sprague

President

Holland Letter

(Continued from page 1)
and had little ambition for study. Now, it is better.

I thank you once more for all that you did for us, especially Mrs. Mathews for all her care. We hope you will receive this letter in good health, with kind regards to all the Sprague employees.

Yours truly,
C. Kockmam

George DeGrenier Gets Around On The Airwaves

George DeGrenier of the Marshall Street Lab, has won that much coveted WAC award (not a lady WAC) but an award which means "worked all continents" in radio parlance. George is an amateur radio operator and has been in communication with other "hams" from all six continental areas of the world—and has confirmations to prove it!

New Arrivals

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson on March 16th at the North Adams Hospital. The father works in the Payroll Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dion announce the birth of a daughter. The father is employed in the Machine Shop.

A daughter was born on March 12th to Mr. and Mrs. John Crase. Mr. Crase is employed in Methods.

SPORTS Kenny Russell

PAA Wins Inter-Plant Basketball Championship



Winning PAA Team—Front row, left to right: Vigna, Bergeron, Trombley, Gallup. Second row: Scarbo, Sprague, Zabek, St. Denis.

The Sprague Inter-Plant Basketball League finished its 1947-48 season Wednesday, March 17, at the local

YMCA with the Office Team, winner of the first half play-off, tackling the strong PAA., winners of the second half play-off. It was a championship game and both teams fielded their strongest teams for this contest. There was no prize for sportsmanship—so little along that line was portrayed by either team. The game started out as a low scoring affair and after a hard fought first half the Office led 14-11. In the second half, the officials relaxed their firm hold on the game, and the tempo of the scoring stepped up—as well as the tempers of the players. Blocks and tackles were made by both sides that would have gladdened the heart of Frank Leahy had the boys been performing for Notre Dame on the gridiron. At other times you could have mistaken the court for a short recap on the Louis-Walcott fight; still at other times it looked like a group of boys in a mad scramble for pennies on the floor. But, nevertheless, during this series of flashbacks the PAA found time to concentrate on making enough baskets to catch the Office forces. With three minutes to go the score was tied 28-28. Here the PAA staged a rally that was too much for the Office; in fact, at this point the tired Office Team would have settled for its swivel chairs rather than try and catch the fast moving PAA. The final score was PAA 36 - Office 30. Zabek with 13 points and Vigna with 12 paced the PAA, while Mulcahy and Thompson were best for the Office.—Tank Wilson

Girls' Basketball Team Ends Successful Season

The Pittsfield Drug Team of the Shire City defeated our local lassies in a ding-dong battle and went on to win the regional playoffs. Pittsfield participated in the National Girls' Basketball Tournament at St. Louis where they were overwhelmed by the Nashville Generals by the one-sided score of 60-11. The high scoring Miss Kirby scored all eleven of her team's points. However, in behalf of the Pittsfield Gals, may I point out that they were confronted with new rules governing tournament play. In the Nationals the girls play the same style of basketball as the men. This being the case, the Shire City Gals were bewildered by the fast breaking attack where all hands were allowed to take part in the scoring.

The Sprague lassies are about to bring down the curtain on a very successful season and, with a little more experience, will undoubtedly bring glory to this section of the Berkshires in the near future. To all the members of the team, its coaches and everyone connected with the organization, may I extend my congratulations on a new and successful venture.

—K. Russell



Office Team—Front row, left to right: McPherson, Mulcahy, Thompson, Noel. Second row: Mason and Wilson.

Get-Together for North Adams Skating Club

The North Adams Skating Club held its annual Get-together supper at the YMCA with over forty skating enthusiasts attending. Alfred Foote was present to award the grammar school championship trophy to Haskins school, winner of the recent meet at Noel Field. Richard Bush, 13, of the eighth grade, winner of his division at the Meet, accepted the trophy for the school. Miss Bernadette Crowley, Vice-President of the Skating Club and a Sprague employee, assisted in the presentation ceremony. Charles Felix and Peter Mancuso, both Past Presidents of the Club (Sprague employees of the Brown Street Plant) were among the speakers. The committee in charge of the arrangements for the supper were Mary Mahoney, Bernadette Crowley, Mary Jane Ponti, Gloria Mancine, Marie Ciochetti and Isaac Berger.

—Charles Felix

Girls' Bowling League (March 15)

Team	Won	Lost
Beaverettes	35	31
Industrial Oils	34	32
W. E. Rollers	33	33
Independents	31	35
Four Top Bowlers Team Avg. Strings		
N. Barschdorf, I. O.	89.6	66
C. Baliakos, Beaverettes	89.4	48
G. Bressett, W. E. R.	88.4	42
N. Estes Independents	88.2	42
High Team Triple—Beaverettes	1371	
High Team Single, Beaverettes	492	
High Individual Single,		
Nancy Barschdorf	126	
High Individual Triple,		
Roma Adams	307	

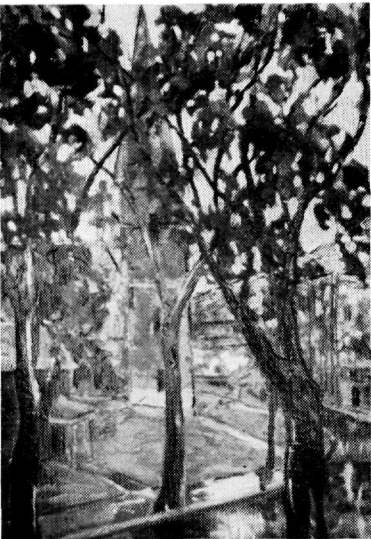
TOP TEN BOWLERS, MAR. 18

(Have bowled at least one-half of all strings rolled.)

Name and Team	Ave.	Strings Rolled
J. Lipa (L. R.)	103.1	66
L. Siciliano (M. S.)	98.0	50
P. Sherman (C. S. P.)	97.9	63
G. Forgea (L. R.)	96.8	60
F. Fortini (Centrifuge)	96.8	45
T. Woloski (I.C.W.)	96.6	56
F. Santelli (I.C.W.)	96.5	55
J. Tolmie (L. R.)	96.3	62
M. Pierce (L. R.)	96.3	51
L. Morocco (M. S.)	95.8	63
High Team Single, I.C.W. No. 2	555	
High Team Total, I.C.W. No. 2	1600	
High Individual Single, L. Segala	146	
High Individual Triple, J. Lipa	362	

Men's Bowling Standings (As of March 18)

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Lunch Room	56	13	.818
I. C. W. No. 2	50	19	.724
Can Shop Pressmen	38	31	.550
Machine Shop	37	32	.536
Centrifuge	34	35	.492
F. P. Drys	29	40	.420
Can Shop	17	52	.246
Machine Shop App.	15	54	.217
Strike Leaders on Each Team			
Name and Team	Strikes		
J. Lipa, Lunch Room	27		
L. Morocco, Machine Shop	16		
F. Santelli and T. Woloski,			
I. C. W. No. 2	15		
R. Sherman, Can Shop Press.	14		
F. Fortini and O. Roy, Centri.	12		
L. Daignault, Can Shop	12		
A. Brown, Mach. Shop App.	10		
F. Messina, F. P. Drys	10		



Looking from Library down Main Street. Painting by E. Fairchild